

ABSTRACT

An Internet-based drag and drop signature and date placement system is used by users such as lawyers, doctors, patients, nurses, home health care agencies, hospitals, etc. to get documents signed after creators of the documents specify the signature and date locations and save them with or in the documents that need to be signed. The servers that store and provide documents employ digital certificates and other security mechanisms to make the retrieval of documents secure. Users therefore need digital certificates to retrieve documents from a secure document server before being able to sign them. A signer needs to have his signature captured once as an electronic image signature so as to be able to use them for signing purposes subsequently. The creator of a document employs a document viewer on his computer or browser to drag and drop signature and / or date locations on his documents. The signature and date locations thus specified are saved, over the Internet, along with the document, and are subsequently used for placing electronic image signatures of signers when they sign the document, and for inserting dates as appropriate. More than one signers may be required to sign a document, and the order in which they must sign can be specified.